

**ABSTRACT**

- A catheter and introducer needle assembly having a needle with a proximal and distal end attached to a needle hub and a bent area therebetween. The
- 5 device further includes a tubular catheter having proximal and distal ends in which the introducer needle can be coaxially received within the catheter. The device has a hollow catheter hub having a distal end attached to the proximal end of the catheter and is in fluid communication therewith. The assembly includes a needle tip protector having a proximal end and a distal end disposed within the catheter hub.
- 10 The distal end of the protector covers the needle tip when the needle is removed from the catheter. The protector has a proximal opening at its proximal end wherein the bent area is angled away from the proximal opening such that when the needle is removed from the catheter the protector remains attached to the needle.